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August 5, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Michael Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: MB Docket Number 05-192

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Adelstein:

On behalf of the Black Entertainment & Telecommunications Association (BETA), I am writing to voice our support of the acquisition of Adelphia cable systems by Comcast Corporation (Comcast). We believe Comcast has the resources and experience to acquire Adelphia assets in a manner that improves consumer service, honors the commitments with the jurisdictions that have provided Adelphia with cable franchises, and increases programming that positively depicts the lives and contributions of Black and other people in America.

As background, BETA is a lobbying group representing executives, professionals, celebrities and students interested in entertainment and telecommunications issues. The organization strives to be a voice and vehicle to promote positive change for full African American inclusion in the fields of media, telecommunications and technology.

BETA was founded in 1998 by advocates who believed that media and telecom executives and professionals needed a stronger voice to lobby on their behalf. The catalyst that brought about BETA was the media's continuous portrayal of Black people in a demeaning image, which the founders saw as one of the main obstacles to our community realizing economic and true political parity with other groups. This image, was in our opinion, a chief reason why Black businesses were undervalued in the marketplace and Black audiences were ignored or discounted by advertisers.

Along with this, BETA's founders recognized the potential adverse impact of the expanding trend of media consolidation. We comprehended the loss of jobs of such consolidation as well as the increased difficulty that consolidation would pose for our community's efforts to change how we were being viewed. Furthermore, we realized that such consolidation would pave the way for a time when information and public perception were controlled by a very small elite group.

Despite these concerns, BETA believes that Comcast has made contributions to our community and others, which we hope will be further expanded by its acquisition of Adelphia cable assets. These contributions include support for legislative efforts of the Congressional Black Caucus, appointment of African Americans to executive and senior management positions, and sponsorship of events and programming produced by groups such as BETA. One of the most significant contributions made by Comcast is its investment in the new cable television network targeted to African Americans, TV-One.

BETA has been on record for complaining of the dearth of African-Americans among cable television network owners. We also expressed concern over the cable industry's long history of showcasing programming geared "more toward titillation than education"...programming which increased harmful racial, gender, and other stereotypes. However, the advent of TV-One, through Comcast's support, is a significant step in addressing our past concerns.

For all these reasons, I encourage the FCC to approve this transaction in a timely manner. It is our hope that once this transaction is approved, Comcast will increase its dedication to working in partnership with BETA and others to allay the concerns that have been articulated by those opposing this transaction. If there is anything further that we can do to assist your consideration of this matter, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our viewpoints.

Eric Ham

Eric Ham
BETA Executive Director